



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Missouri Awards \$4.2 Million to 28 Homeland Security Response Teams**

The state of Missouri through its State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) awarded \$4.2 Million in Homeland Security Funds to Missouri's Homeland Security Response Teams (HRST) during a leadership conference, Monday. The teams will use the reimbursable grants to purchase authorized equipment, send team members to training, and conduct exercises.

This spring the teams participated in 21 local and/or regional exercises with the goal of helping SEMA identify future equipment, training, and full-scale exercises opportunities to make the teams even more effective in their response operations. At the meeting, the team leaders were asked to help re-write policy and operations response procedures for alert notifications, response staffing from multiple units and deployment based on their experiences from the exercises earlier this year.

Each HSRT Team is composed of fire department hazardous materials response technicians, law enforcement, and emergency medical technicians. Because of the hazardous material response element, the teams are often housed with city or county fire departments. Currently, Missouri has 28 established teams scattered across the state. SEMA is working with local officials to establish at least two or more new teams.

Homeland Security Grants of \$150,000 were awarded to Homeland Security Response Teams in Camden County, City of Columbia, Jefferson City/Cole County, Jefferson County, City of Joplin, City of Kirksville, Lee's Summit Fire Department, Northwest Missouri HAZMAT, Ozark Regional HAZMAT, Rolla/Phelps County, St. Charles/Warren Counties, City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, Sedalia/Pettis County, Tri-District Fire Protection District, Franklin County, Boone County Fire Protection District, Branson/Taney County, City of Jackson/SEMO Hazmat Team, Clay County/Northland Fire Chiefs Assn, and Kansas City HAZMAT. The Springfield/ Greene County and Logan-Rogersville teams will receive a \$300,000 grant.

Homeland Security Grants of \$75,000 were awarded to Homeland Security Response Teams in City of Hannibal, Johnson County, City of Lebanon, City of Neosho, City of Nevada, City of West Plains, and City of Kennett.

The remaining balance has been set aside for new teams that have been identified. Before the new teams are established, SEMA and local elected officials must sign Memorandums of Agreement. The local groups must also document hazardous materials response technicians are certified, and agreements are in place with law enforcement and emergency medical technicians responders.